



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Gabon

Looting Reported in Port-Gentil; Strike Called

AB2403102990 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] In Gabon, the national conference of political movements began rather poorly this morning. Social tension suddenly worsened when a large section of the opposition invited to the conference decided to boycott the meeting.

In another development, the strike wave has now reached the country's interior. As a matter of fact, the city of Port-Gentil, which has so far been spared any social disturbances, went through a particularly hot morning today when shops were looted. Several stores belonging to Lebanese people were ransacked. As a result, many businesses closed. In view of these serious developments, large troop reinforcements were dispatched to help contain the situation.

This outburst of violence could be related to difficulties reported at the opening of the national conference. Opposition movements invited to the conference have charged that the deliberations will not be serious and will probably be manipulated. For this reason they have all decided to boycott the deliberations. President Omar Bongo's ruling party would reportedly have an overwhelming majority at the conference and this would enable it to conduct the deliberations at its own convenience. That is one of the points which the opposition has complained about and which could lead to the failure of the conference. In view of this, the opposition promptly called for a general strike, asking its militants not to yield to provocative acts and not to attack citizens.

Many Injured, 'Extensive' Damage

AB2403114290 Paris AFP in French 0924 GMT
24 Mar 90

[Text] Libreville, 24 Mar (AFP)—Yesterday's looting of stores in Port-Gentil caused "extensive damage" and left "many injured," according to reports published here this morning. Groups of unemployed people and idlers rushed into the center of the Gabonese economic capital and neighboring districts, smashing shop windows and looting stores, the national daily L'UNION reports today.

The demonstrators burned cars and ransacked newsstands. As a result, many shops and schools were closed. By midday, calm had returned to the city and troop reinforcements were sent in from Libreville to assist security forces in the city, an informed source said.

Concurrently with these disturbances, workers in some enterprises continued their work stoppages yesterday, the same source said. This is true for the Gabonese Refining Company, where the vehicles of some responsible staff have been damaged, and for Mobil Oil Company. The paper specified that negotiations to settle the social situation have not been "successful." Strikes are

also in effect at the West African Maritime Company (SOAM), the Delmas Vieljeux Company in Gabon, the Gabon Poultry and Flour Mill Company, and the Paul Igamba Hospital.

Curfew, Rioting, Strikes Noted

AB2403202390 Paris AFP in English 2014 GMT
24 Mar 90

[Text] Libreville, March 24 (AFP)—A curfew was imposed on Gabon's economic capital Port Gentil on Saturday after riots in the city left many injured, officials said.

Public gatherings of more than five people were banned, with the curfew in effect from 8 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. [1900 to 0530 GMT] Unemployed people rioted in Port Gentil on Friday, leaving "many injured" and causing "considerable damage", officials said.

Demonstrators smashed shop windows in the city centre, looted stores, burned cars and vandalized newspaper kiosks, the daily newspaper L'UNION said. No further details of injuries or damage were immediately available.

Meanwhile, strikes hit oil refineries, hospitals, grain mills, poultry farms and the shipping sector, according to several reports.

Most of Gabon's petroleum industry is based in Port Gentil, which remained calm when demonstrations and strikes rocked Libreville in January and February.

In the capital, a week-long national conference to map out Gabon's political future opened Friday, with about 150 political movements and professional associations taking part.

President Omar Bongo has promised far-reaching reforms to curb increasing political and labour unrest, but some opposition groups claimed his Democratic Party (DP) had weighted delegation strength at the conference in its own favour.

About a dozen mainline formations said they were forming a united opposition front and called for a general strike next Tuesday to back demands "for respect for basic freedoms."

Mr. Bongo has called the conference in a bid to recast the monolithic DP as a broader-based social democratic movement.

Meanwhile in a new bid to defuse unrest, officials announced that a new director-general, Daniel Tchipandi Tonda, had been appointed to the National Social Security Fund (CNSS), whose staff are also on strike. Social Affairs Minister Antonie Mboumbou-Miyakou asked the new boss to do all he could to "re-gild the tarnished image of the fund, starting by looking for ways to settle the main claims of the personnel."

High on the list of demands from Social Security employees, who went on strike Wednesday, was the departure of former CNSS Director Omer Piankali, who had held the job for eight years, and of seven other

managerial staff. They also wanted the repeal of legislation slashing the salaries of public sector workers.

Chadian Minister Arrives for Talks With Libyan

*AB2503223490 Paris AFP in French 2110 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Libreville, 25 Mar (AFP)—A consultative meeting of Chadian and Libyan officials on the Aozou strip border dispute opens in Libreville tomorrow, it was officially announced in the Gabonese capital today. According to the same source, Chadian Foreign Minister Acheikh ibn Oumar arrived in Libreville this afternoon to attend the meeting, which is part of President Omar Bongo's mediation to help settle the dispute.

In a statement to the press, the Chadian minister recalled that a general agreement was signed in Algiers in August 1989 as part of the search for a political settlement of the dispute, and six months remain to achieve this goal. Otherwise, the matter would be submitted to the Hague International Court of Justice. "We are exploring all ways to reach a settlement," the Chadian minister added, and "the most important thing is that the talks should continue."

The Libyan delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, it was learned tonight from diplomatic sources.

Zaire

Baker, UNITA's Savimbi Arrive in Kinshasa

*EA2403130390 Bukavu Domestic Service in French
0430 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] President Mobutu yesterday met the U.S. ambassador. The two discussed Zaire's economic situation which is currently causing much concern to the Zairian authorities.

It will be also noted that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is currently in Zaire after visiting Namibia, will today hold talks with Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the party's founding chairman and president of the Republic.

Meanwhile, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], arrived in the Zairian capital yesterday. Nothing was disclosed about his remarks to the press on his arrival in Kinshasa.

Secretary of State Baker Ends Visit

*AB2403162390 Paris AFP in French 1500 GMT
24 Mar 90*

[Text] Kinshasa, 24 Mar (AFP)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Kinshasa late this morning for Washington after meeting the Zairian head of state, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. The U.S. official did not make any statement on his three-hour discussions with the Zairian president, simply describing the talks as "very good."

Mr. Baker, who arrived the previous night from Johannesburg after representing the United States at Namibia's independence ceremonies, discussed with the Zairian head of state issues on southern Africa and, more precisely, Angola, it was learned from reliable sources.

Last night, Mr. Baker met with Mr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA—armed opposition to the Luanda regime) at N'sele (40 km north of Kinshasa). At an informal meeting, the U.S. secretary of state delivered to Jonas Savimbi a nine-point plan which was given to him in Windhoek by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos during ceremonies marking Namibia's independence.

This new peace plan was favorably received by U.S. leaders, who saw in it "a new flexibility" from Mr. dos Santos. This plan notably concerns a proclamation of a cease-fire as a precondition for the opening of negotiations between Luanda and UNITA, the constitution of a "national army", and the principle of free elections in Angola, it was learned from diplomatic sources in Kinshasa. Mr. Baker also raised with President Mobutu, the official mediator in the Angolan conflict recognized by the two feuding sides, his meeting with President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi, reliable sources stated.

Mr. Baker further discussed with the Zairian head of state Zaire's economic problems, especially the structural adjustment program set up in the country by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and U.S. aid in Zaire, reliable sources have stated.

The political situation in Zaire, especially the popular debate on institutions organized by Marshal Mobutu, was also at the center of the working breakfast, these sources added. The U.S. secretary of state was then invited to visit President Mobutu's personal zoological garden at N'sele before leaving Zaire.

Sisulu Criticizes UK's Thatcher on Role

MB2503111290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1111 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Johannesburg March 25 SAPA—ANC [African National Congress] internal leader Mr Walter Sisulu on Sunday slammed British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher for her role in South Africa.

In a message to a mass rally in London organised by the Anti-apartheid Movement (AAM), Mr Sisulu said: "The time has come for Mrs Thatcher to stop siding with (state President F.W.) de Klerk. Her policy can only do harm to the negotiation process."

Recently released treason trialist, Mr Andrew Mlangeni, is scheduled to address the rally in Trafalgar Square, which follows a mass march through London. He is the first of the recently released ANC leader to visit Britain.

Mr Sisulu was scheduled to address the rally in person, but on Saturday [24 March] night informed the AAM he could not attend due to developments inside South Africa.

According to a statement released to SAPA by the AAM, the procession will call at 10 Downing Street where Archbishop Trevor Huddleston and other personalities will deliver over 16,000 personal letters to Mrs Thatcher, urging her to "stop supporting apartheid".

Mr Sisulu said sanctions must be maintained and intensified until freedom was guaranteed.

"Britain cannot make a successful contribution to ending apartheid as long as its government refuses to recognise the important role of sanctions.

"We know you will keep up the boycott of South African goods. We asked you to rally round the ANC as it returns to its roots, and we thank you all for your continuing solidarity."

A statement to the rally by British opposition leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, offered the Labour Party's full support to the AAM. He said those who argued that pressure on South Africa should be relaxed and sanctions lifted did not understand that "in dealing with Pretoria—pressure pays, patience doesn't."

"That is why today's demonstration is so important. It sends a clear message to Downing Street and elsewhere that sanctions must be maintained as an essential pressure for non-violent change."

Other speakers to address the rally include Archbishop Huddleston, several MPs [members of Parliament], an actress, Judith Jacobs, and a 17-year-old girl, Clare Morgan, who was fired by a supermarket chain for refusing to handle South African goods.

Three Explosions in Soweto; No Injuries

MB2603061590 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0555 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Johannesburg [dateline as received]—Three blasts shook Johannesburg and Soweto on Sunday [25 Mar] night.

Two explosions —on at the Soweto City Council chambers in Jabulani and another at a house in Zola—were confirmed by Colonel Tienie Halgryn of the SA Police. The third blast, caused by a suspected short circuit west of the city, was confirmed by Langlaagte Police.

Col. Halgryn said police were waiting for daylight to assess damage and ascertain what explosives had been used. He said nobody had been injured in the explosions.

By late on Sunday night Langlaagte Police were unable to say whether the blast in their area was caused by explosives. They said it could have been a short circuit.

The Soweto blasts happened at about 9.30 pm [1930 GMT] and were believed to be in response to police action against a crowd of about 10,000 people who marched on the council chambers. The marchers demanded the resignation of town councillors and the transfer of houses to the people.

'Insurgents' Attack Town Council

MB2603075490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0751 GMT 26 Mar 90

[By Craig Kotze]

[Text] Johannesburg March 26 SAPA—Suspected insurgents using RPG-7 rocket launchers attacked the Soweto Town Council offices on Sunday [25 March] night and an hour later, three limpet mine blasts damaged the Langlaagte power station in Johannesburg.

No one was injured in the blasts, SAP [South African Police] spokesman Major Reg Crewe said on Monday. The explosions which rocked the Soweto offices were caused by rocket-propelled grenades fired from Soviet-made RPG-7 rockets, confirmed Major Crewe.

Police sources have linked the attacks to ANC [African National Congress] armed wing commander Mr. Chris Hani's weekend call that a ceasefire be negotiated with the SA Defence Force. The attacks could be a "show of force," they said.

Colonel Tienie Halgryn said police had launched a massive investigation in Soweto for the rocket attackers. He said the use of rocket launchers made police cassettes, other vehicles and SAP installations more vulnerable to attack.

Colonel Halgryn said one of the rockets fired at the Soweto council offices hit a house, causing some damage. The other rocket hit the east side of the office complex. Remnants of the rockets were found at both sides, Colonel Halgryn said.

Major Crewe said no arrests have yet been made in connection with the attack.

In Langlaagte, the bombers cut through a fence surrounding the power station before planting the mines. The mines went off at about 9:30 pm [1930 GMT] Sunday.

Three transformers were badly damaged at the Langlaagte power station.

Police Issue Unrest Report for 25 Mar

*MB2603080690 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0758 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Pretoria March 26 SAPA—The following unrest-related incidents were reported by the South African Police liaison officer for Sunday 25/3/90 to SAPA.

At Mahwaqa, Hibberdene, a large mob of blacks attacked an opposing group and set fire to some 20 huts. Four men were shot and killed during the attack.

At Mhluzi, Middelburg Transvaal, a private vehicle was extensively damaged when it was set alight by a group of black youths. Tearsmoke was used to disperse the group.

At Ramolatsie, near Viljoenskroon, a large mob of black youths threw stones at a police vehicle. Tearsmoke and birdshot were used to disperse the mob. One woman was injured.

At Obanjeni Reserve, near Mtunzini, Natal, a large group gathered and police warned those present to disperse. Instead, stones were thrown at the police. Tearsmoke was used to disperse the mob.

The area was patrolled and a while later, police came across a group near the tribal court. The building, which had been bombarded with petrol bombs, was ablaze. Police used tearsmoke and birdshot to disperse the mob and attempted to extinguish the fire. Although the police managed to save quite a bit of the furniture, extensive damage was caused to property. The building was almost completely burnt out. No casualties were reported.

At Edendale, in Natal, a large number of buses carrying Inkatha supporters drove through the area. They were returning from a meeting at Kings Park in Durban. Police patrolled the area in order to make sure that no incidents occurred.

However, a number of incidents were reported in which stones were thrown at policemen, police vehicles, buses and private vehicles. In all, some 15 buses and 11 private vehicles were reported to have been damaged whilst travelling along the Edendale main road.

Total damage caused is extensive. In one incident, a private vehicle was set alight and extensively damaged. When police went to attend to this incident, a police vehicle was stoned and damaged.

Shots were also fired at the police and members retaliated with shotgun fire. No injuries were reported.

In another incident, Inkatha offices were damaged in a stoning incident. Police arrested a 32 year old black man. During the numerous incidents, police used rubber bullets, shotgun fire and pistol fire to disperse attackers. No casualties were reported.

At Imbali, near Pietermaritzburg, a number of incidents were reported:

A bus and a private vehicle were damaged in separate stoning incidents.

In a shooting incident, two black men were wounded. A 26-year-old man was struck in the chest and a 24-year-old man was hit in the arm and back when shots were fired at them from a bus.

A bus was stoned and damaged and the driver was robbed of cash.

A black man was shot and killed by unknown attackers. At Gesubuzo, near Natal, an unknown gunman fired at a group of people with a shotgun. A man and a woman were fatally wounded and another man as wounded.

ANC, Government Hold 'Exploratory Discussions'

*MB2303135790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1154 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Text] Johannesburg March 23 SAPA—Five National Executive Committee members of the ANC [African National Congress]—including Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) [spear of the nation, ANC military wing] Chief of Staff Chris Hani—will arrive in South Africa this weekend as part of the organisation's advance negotiating team. NEW NATION newspaper reported Friday [23 March].

NEW NATION said two ANC heavyweights from Lusaka, Chief of Security Jacob Zuma, and Phamuel Maduna, held exploratory discussions with government officials in Pretoria. They slipped quietly into South Africa on Wednesday.

It is Mr Zuma's second visit in 10 days. He returns to Lusaka on Friday, and will be back in South Africa on Monday, according to NEW NATION.

Expected to arrive at the weekend are MK Commander Joe Modise, ANC Assistant Secretary Henry Makgothi, Political Commissar Steve Tshwete and head of political education Reg September.

Further exploratory talks with the government will take place on Monday.

All attempts by SAPA to get information about the advance party from the National Reception Committee—set up by anti-apartheid groups before Nelson Mandela's release on February 11—drew a blank.

ANC Delegation To Arrive 'Middle of the Week'

*MB2603092890 Johannesburg Television Service
in Afrikaans 0530 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] SAPA reports that an ANC [African National Congress] delegation which was due to have left Lusaka yesterday for South Africa for exploratory talks on negotiations with the government on 11 April will only arrive towards the middle of the week, because of travel problems.

ANC spokesmen in Lusaka say the group of 19, including Mr. Chris Hani, chief of staff of the organization's military wing, could not get seats aboard a South African Airways flight.

It will be the largest group of exiled ANC members to return to South Africa legally.

The government and the ANC will hold talks on 11 April on obstacles in the way of formal negotiations.

[Johannesburg Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 26 March in a similar report notes that the ANC delegation will arrive "towards the middle of next week."]

Indemnity Legislation for ANC Proposed

*MB2603121290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1158 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Cape Town March 26 SAPA—The government will take steps this week—possible introducing special legislation—to make provision for a form of indemnity for ANC [African National Congress] negotiators who may still be liable to prosecution in South Africa.

This follows the cancellation of return plans by a group of 19 senior ANC members under the leadership of the Umkhonto we Sizwe [ANC military wing] (spear of the nation) chief of staff, Mr. Chris Hane, on Sunday [25 March].

Contrary to earlier reports the reason why the group did not return to South Africa from Lusaka had nothing to do with a lack of aircraft space. They were advised by Mr. Jacob Zuma, the ANC chief of intelligence, who returned to Lusaka after three days in South Africa last week, to call off their planned return.

A senior government spokesman said on Monday that plans were in the pipeline to rectify the situation. There was no legal provision for the granting of temporary indemnity, and the logical solution appeared to be the introduction of such legislation by the Department of Justice.

Once it was introduced—not expected to be later than this week—administrative arrangements could follow which would cover the position of ANC negotiators until the new law was passed and gazetted. As with influx control and the Immorality and Mixed Marriages Act transgressions, a moratorium could be put in place until the new law applied.

Mandela Addresses Nelspruit ANC Rally

*MB2403111890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1116 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] Nelspruit March 24 SAPA—ANC [African National Congress] deputy leader Nelson Mandela on Saturday called on all municipal authorities in the Transvaal to contribute towards the creation of a conflict-free South Africa.

Speaking at an ANC rally in Nelspruit, he said the opening of amenities to all, and without delay, would be a step in the right direction. Noting that white towns in the area were deeply racist, he said black people continued to suffer the indignity of exclusion from recreational centres and other public facilities.

The ANC would be setting up local offices in "every area" in the coming weeks, he said, to make sure that every assault, every rape, and every case of child labour is reported so that these "evil practices are stopped".

He noted that in the Eastern Transvaal, the tragic system of labour tenancy prevailed, and said the conditions of slave labour had their roots in the mid-19th century "when the Boer trekkers arrived".

"They wanted servants and labourers. But African people had no desire or need to work for the Boers. As the Boers grew in numbers and power, those of our people who refused were often fined, whipped or attacked. Worst of all, our young children were enslaved by raiders."

Since the potato boycott of the 1950s, launched by the ANC in protest against horrific labour conditions on the Bethal potato farms, little had changed and conditions of slave labour remain and the murder and assaults on farm workers are increasing, he said.

"The nation is shocked by the R [rand] 100 fine imposed on farmer Rabie for the brutal murder of Mr Xaba. No white farmer has yet gone to prison for the murder of one of their workers, and indeed, nor will that happen for as long as farmers continue to enjoy the protection of local police and magistrates," Mr Mandela continued.

He condemned the lack of legal protection for farm workers and the gross exploitation which existed on many farms, and demanded that farmworkers be allowed full trade union rights. Mr Mandela linked the exploitation of workers to land struggles which dated back over 150 years and reminded the rally of the message which Dinkwanyane sent to the Boers more than a century ago: "The land belongs to us".

Linked closely with this issue, Mr Mandela said he recognised that the Bantustan system also lay at the root of gross exploitation of workers. He said the Bantustans were dying and said the ANC was ready to work with homeland leaders who identified with the ANC struggle but would not take on discredited leaders against the wishes "of the people".

He said Bophuthatswana's Lucas Mangope was ruling by force and had imposed a state of emergency in the homeland at a time when hopes were high that President F.W. de Klerk would lift the state of emergency in SA. Ciskei's Lennox Sebe had been toppled, in Venda Dr Frank Ravele had lost all support and in Gazankulu Hudson Ntsanwisi faced an ongoing crisis. Mr Mandela complimented kaNgwane's Enos Mabuza for his stand on the homeland question, saying the ANC expected to exchange further views with him.

Recent events demonstrated a massive rejection of the homeland policy and, in order to limit the bloodshed and damage which accompanied the upheavals, Mr Mandela said people should be reunified as soon as possible.

The recent wave of violence and, on occasion even lawlessness, had led people to say that the ANC was unable to control its supporters.

"This is not true, but that remains to be demonstrated through our discipline. As always, we must persuade people to join us by setting a good example. We have never supported coercion, nor will we tolerate it now, no matter who employs it," he told the rally.

The current wave of uprisings were a tragic indication of the present political reality that, although a process of change was beginning, as yet nothing truly fundamental had altered, he said.

"It is also a result of our exclusion, for thirty years, from open political organisation and mobilisation. As a result, our people remain vulnerable to the effects of rumour and to the depredations of vigilantes."

These problems needed to be tackled so that support was transformed into much-needed, well-informed, political organisation.

He said the inability of the police to stop the carnage that continued in many areas, along with their direct implication in the violence in places like Driefontein, raised enormous doubt about their neutrality and professionalism. "We are also horrified by the shooting of 17 people on Sharpeville Day at Piet Retief," he said.

Equally disturbing were the continuing reports of "destabilisation activities" by the security forces in Mozambique.

He called on Mr de Klerk to institute a commission of inquiry into the activities of alleged secret Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] bases inside SA as a matter of urgency, saying the unit was disturbingly similar to the Civic Corporation Bureau.

He also reiterated his call to the government of SA and the USA to pass legislation which made the rendition of aid to Renamo a punishable offence.

Credits 'Heroic Resistance' for Talks

MB2403113990 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1128 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Nelspruit March 24 SAPA—The April 11 meeting between the ANC [African National Congress] and government was not the beginning of negotiations but an attempt to ensure that the remaining obstacles to negotiations are removed, ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela said on Saturday.

Speaking at an ANC rally in Nelspruit, Transvaal, Mr Mandela said it was heroic resistance to apartheid that had "forced the government to sit down and talk".

He told the rally that the obstacles which remained to negotiations were preconditions as set out in the Harare Document, and which had not been met by the SA Government.

These included the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of the remaining political prisoners, the return of all exiles, the suspension of political trials and an end to the use of repressive legislation.

Mandela Addresses Turfloop Rally 25 Mar

MB2503153090 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1453 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Johannesburg March 25 SAPA—Students must return to schools, ANC [African National Congress] Deputy President Nelson Mandela told a mass rally at Turfloop University on Sunday [25 Mar].

He called on the government to build more schools and to train and employ more teachers.

"The tactic of boycott cannot hope to win our battles in the education arena. Our stayaways and school boycotts are giving the education departments one long public holiday."

He said ANC President Oliver Tambo, who he saw recently in Sweden, joined in the call to "intensify the offensive" to end the Bantustan system. "Bury the stinking Bantustan corpse," is the message from all the homelands, he said. Intensifying the offensive meant building organisations, engaging in mass action and "winning support by persuading people of the correctness of our views."

Political and educational skills must be developed and levels of discipline in organisations must be increased.

He paid tribute to the many Turfloop students who had sustained and supported the struggle and had become leaders. "From Turfloop come great leaders like the general-secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Cyril Ramaphosa; (Patrick) "Terror" Lekota, the publicity secretary of the United Democratic Front; and Frank Chikane, the general-secretary of the SA Council of Churches. We trust that more future leaders are among you," he said.

"Apartheid had deeply wounded our society, making us enemies of each other. We make a special call here today to the churches and religious organisations ... open your churches to all."

He called for joint action from the black consciousness groups and all other anti-apartheid forces, saying it was time for unity in action.

Mr Mandela said he had met Azanian Peoples Organization (AZAPO) leaders and he intended to hold further discussions with them with the aim of working together to eliminate township violence.

He then paid tribute to the nations women. "The cruel Bantustan system has taken away your men and turned them to become migrants. You have been forced to remain behind in the dumping grounds to rear our children, care for our elderly and to survive in conditions of most extreme poverty. Yet your spirit is unbroken. We salute you."

Mr Mandela on Sunday, as he did at a rally in Nelspruit in the Eastern Transvaal on Saturday, called for the dismantling of all Mozambican rebel Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] bases in South Africa to be closed and South Africa and the United States should introduce legislation "which makes aid by any one of their citizens to Renamo a punishable offence".

"This reign of terror must end."

He also called for all unoccupied farms to be made available to black farming communities "with the same incentives and service that the government uses to encourage white settlers. The land must belong to those who work it," he said.

Further on Remarks

MB2503164790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1643 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Pietersburg March 25 SAPA—The vice-president of the ANC [African National Congress], Mr Nelson Mandela, on Sunday [25 March] addressed the largest political rally ever held in the northern Transvaal, where he received a tumultuous welcome from a crowd estimated to be between 60,000 and 80,000 people.

Some of those at the rally, held at the University of the North's Turfloop Stadium, had camped near the venue since Friday to make sure of a seat.

Mr Mandela devoted a large part of his address to educational matters, saying it was not ANC policy to disrupt schooling. He urged students to return to schools, colleges and universities, reminding them, "without education, you can forget about liberation".

He also praised traditional chiefs who had been in the forefront of the fight against apartheid in general, and the homeland system in particular.

Mr Mandela said he had told Mr Nelson Ramodike, Chief Minister of Lebowa, who had expressed a desire to attend the rally, that he would first need to release detainees and apologise to the people for his participation in the furtherance of the apartheid system.

However, homeland leaders who genuinely "repented", should be accepted by the people who were in the liberation struggle, because the government could use such leaders to divide the people, Mr Mandela contended.

The platform at the rally was shared with Mr Mandela by internal ANC leader Mr Walter Sisulu, northern Transvaal UDF [United Democratic Front] leader Mr Louis Mnguni, SA Youth Congress President Mr Peter Mokaba, and Mr Elias Motsoaledi, a former Robben Island detainee.

Police kept a low profile during the rally, and there were no incidents of violence or confrontation, SAPA's correspondent reported.

Buthelezi Meets KwaZulu Chiefs, Makes Statement

MB2403104890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0945 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Johannesburg March 24 SAPA—ANC [African National Congress] leaders, particularly those who were recently released from prison, have been called on by KwaZulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to uphold the dignity of the Zulu king and accept the king's invitation for a meeting.

A lengthy statement issued by Dr Buthelezi after a special meeting of KwaZulu chiefs at Ulundi on Saturday [day as received] night, dealt largely with "lifting Zulu dignity up out of the political gutters" and said no invitation by King Zwelithini Goodwill should be declined for party political reasons.

The king had addressed the meeting on Saturday night.

The resolution called on the ANC's national executive to recognise that King Zwelithini was a king and should be afforded the dignity of a king.

Passed by the chiefs at the meeting, the resolution noted their "deep commitment to further black unity in SA by using Zulu unity as an anvil" on which to beat their South Africanism "for the sake of every race group in the country".

"An insult to one Zulu is an insult to all Zulus, an insult to his majesty is an insult to the whole nation and an insult to the chief minister is an insult to the whole body politic," said the statement.

It deplored the tendency of associating Zulu traditions and remnants of the once great Zulu domains with the structures of apartheid.

"We see Ulundi as the capital of KwaZulu and we see it as a black spearhead against apartheid and we see the whole of KwaZulu being focussed on the outside world through Ulundi."

Other resolutions called strongly on all Zulus to develop a national will to be loyal to Zulu culture, Zulu values and the "institutions of KwaZulu."

"We stand appalled as we witness a threat to youth honour and real youth valour by the factions of our youth who turn against their own parents and then turn to other youth against their parents and who defy Zulu social order and Zulu values etiquette," Dr Buthelezi said.

A lengthy resolution related to the Zulu chiefs' support of black education for progress and, noting deficiencies of "bantus education", said every black child should take advantage of education.

The chiefs called on parents to ensure their children treated schools and educational institutions with respect and threatened to close all schools indefinitely where those schools were sources of "black-on-black" confrontation.

Buthelezi Asks Black Leaders to Reject Violence

*MB2503120590 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1154 GMT 25 Mar 90*

[SAPA PR Wire Service; issued by the Chief Minister's Office, Ulundi]

[Text] [No dateline as received] Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi today called on all black leaders drawn into confrontation to act together to condemn violence wherever it occurred.

At a rainwashed thanksgiving service here marking the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, he condemned countrywide violence as a barrier to black liberation.

And he called on all blacks to place South Africa first by putting an end to delaying tactics and getting on with negotiations for a new all-race Constitution immediately. The KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president strongly condemned the intimidation and violence used to make workers stay away from work last week.

It was not only violence against specific people and groups, he said. It was violence against black society, against people and their freedom to choose.

"It is violence against democracy and against the black struggle for liberation," he told the responsive crowd.

"We therefore call for the cessation of black hostilities because they are marring the very honour of black South Africa and indeed mother Africa herself."

He asked how it was possible for any leader—of Inkatha, the ANC [African National Congress] or the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress]—to seek mandates to negotiate and then return to the people for consultation while present levels of violence continued.

Chief Buthelezi held out his hand of friendship to all black political organisations and called for acceptance of the fact that the only effective unity was that based on the general acceptance of a multi-strategy approach in which all organisations complemented each other.

"I declare myself and Inkatha now ready to negotiate with the South African Government. The government cannot turn back now. It is past the point of no return and we have witnessed this in the state president's visit to Namibia.

"Great African leaders, great international leaders, all sought audience with him because they believed that there was no turning back for him.

"I call on all my black brothers and sisters to now come forward and to negotiate and to stop delaying tactics...we can negotiate the final eradication of apartheid (and) a new Constitution and we can negotiate freedom for all.

"Let us put South Africa first. Let us now begin to negotiate. This is what I call for in your name."

Today's rally was preceded by prayers for peace, thanksgiving for the release of ANC and PAC political prisoners and for the lifting of banning on people like Mr Rowly Arenstein, the former leading SACP [South African Communist Party] activist. It also celebrated the return from exile of Dr Wilson Conco, former Natal deputy to the late ANC leader, Chief Albert Lutuli.

Angola

Savimbi-Baker 23 Mar Meeting Reported

MB2403065390 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0500 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Report by Kinshasa correspondent Jacinto Ricardo]

[Text] UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] President Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi met for almost two hours with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on 23 March. The meeting was held at Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi's residence in Kinshasa, Republic of Zaire.

The two distinguished officials reviewed the Angolan peace and national reconciliation process initiated in Gbadolite on 22 June 1989. Apart from reiterating their trust in President Mobutu Sese Seko's mediation, the two sides noted the urgent need for a cease-fire between the two belligerent factions in the Angolan conflict, as well as the need to resume direct UNITA-MPLA talks [words indistinct] a political solution of the conflict.

Speaking to Vorgan [Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel] in Kinshasa, UNITA President Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi underlined the very cordial atmosphere that marked the meeting and the viewpoints shared by the two sides, as well as Secretary of State Baker's reaffirmation of continued U.S. efficient and (?varied) support for [words indistinct] UNITA's struggle for national reconciliation, freedom, and democracy in Angola.

UNITA Reports Military Situation

23 March

MB2403062690 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0500 GMT 24 Mar 90

["Political and Military Situation Report" for 1200 GMT on 23 March—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. An enemy column left Cuito Cuanavale to rescue its Mavinga front forces [words indistinct].

2. The supply column [words indistinct] faced difficulties due to our daily attacks.

3. At 1100 [1000 GMT] on (?22) March our forces stormed the (Nhamacupa) enemy barracks, killing 22 FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] soldiers and capturing one. Our forces captured 17 AK-47 weapons [words indistinct] 1,500 rounds of assorted ammunition [words indistinct].

4. Only direct talks between UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] can end the suffering of the people [words indistinct] and an atmosphere of trust among all Angolans.

[Issued] Office of the Chief of General Staff, 23 March 1990

[Signed] Colonel Zacarias Mundombe, deputy military intelligence chief

24 March

MB2503054790 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0510 GMT 25 Mar 90

["Political and Military Situation Report" for 1100 GMT on 24 March—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The Mavinga front enemy supply column continues to come under systematic attacks from our forces. It will have the same fate other columns have had.

Our forces destroyed five BMP-1's, two T-55 tanks, three cargo vehicles, and a fuel truck in several attacks near the source of the Mienei and Lomba Rivers.

2. Mavinga area—Our commandos penetrated the base of the 3d tactical unit, destroyed its ammunition depot, and killed six FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola].

3. Our Cazombo forces attacked and took the enemy's (Muhaco) barracks on 21 March. The enemy fled the barracks, leaving behind 18 dead, after a 45-minute fight. Our forces also captured FAPLA soldier Zeferino Canuco, who used to serve in the 2d Battalion of the 39th Brigade. Our forces also captured 12 AK-47 semiautomatic weapons, two RPG-7 rocket launchers, 8,000 rounds of various types of ammunition, and an assortment of health and communications equipment.

4. Our forces attacked a FAPLA column traveling between Sumbe and Gabela at 0830 [0730 GMT] on 23 March, burning three vehicles and killing seven FAPLA soldiers.

5. The Cubans are once again directly involving themselves in operations against FALA [Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] forces. They hope to find easy, yet ultimately futile, pretexts to attack UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] to rescue FAPLA forces who feel these warmongering adventures should end.

Large Cuban columns are moving toward the UNITA-controlled areas from central Angola.

6. Our struggle will continue until our country is rid of any form of foreign domination.

[Signed] Office of the Chief of General Staff, 24 March 1990

[Issued] Colonel Zacarias Mundombe, deputy military intelligence chief

More on 24 March Situation

MB2603071290 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0545 GMT 26 Mar 90

["Political and Military Situation Report" for 1900 GMT on 24 March—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. So far, there have been no significant alterations to the Mavinga war drama when compared with the political and military situation report for 1100 GMT on 24 March.

2. Our forces attacked an enemy motorized column between Boas Aguas and Vila Nova, in Huambo Province on 23 March, destroying two Engesa military vehicles.

3. Our forces attacked another column between Ganda and Cubal, in Benguela Province, at 1500 [1400 GMT] on 23 March, killing eight FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] and destroying four food supply trucks and an assortment of war materiel. The UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] forces also captured a 75mm cannon, 47 shells, and nine AK-47 weapons.

4. Only the complete Cuban withdrawal from our fatherland and direct UNITA-MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] talks will permit lasting peace and guarantee democracy for all Angolan people.

[Signed] Office of the Chief of General Staff, 24 March 1990

[Issued] Colonel Zacarias Mundombe, deputy military intelligence chief

2,000 Reportedly Surrender to Authorities

MB2403202090 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1915 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Lubango, 24 March (ANGOP)—A total of 2,000 people who had been held captive in the bush by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] have presented themselves to Angolan authorities in Cunene Province over the past four years.

Cunene Provincial Secretary for Ideology Agostinho Sacato also told ANGOP last Friday that these people include 60 former UNITA members. For many years these compatriots carried out criminal actions against Angolan people and destroyed strategic economic targets.

The citizens reintegrated into Angolan society are currently benefitting from food aid and are expected to be reintegrated into various sectors in order to make their contribution to the country's economic reconstruction.

UNITA Integration Into Army 'Possible'

AU2403172490 Paris AFP in English 0020 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Lisbon, March 24 (AFP)—The Angolan army chief-of-staff General Antonio dos Santos said rebel UNITA forces could be integrated into the regular Angolan army if the two sides agree to peace. In an interview Friday with the Lisbon newspaper PUBLICO, Gen. dos Santos said the warring forces could constitute a national army once a negotiated peace was accepted. But he said the current army was operating "beyond its economic capabilities" and should be reduced by "nearly two-thirds."

PUBLICO estimated the strength of government troops at 120,000 men, but Gen. dos Santos declined to confirm the figure.

The future national army could absorb all UNITA officers, he asserted, even despite cutbacks, because there were within both UNITA and government troops many soldiers who "wanted to leave military life."

Gen. dos Santos, who is directing the government's current offensive against UNITA troops in southeast Angola, said he opposed bringing in third countries to monitor a future ceasefire. "We do not want to internationalize the conflict further," he said. "We want to reduce interference because this is an internal conflict and the solution must be found among Angolans." He denied that the aim of the army's offensive in the Kuando-Kubango province was to take UNITA headquarters, located at the eastern edge of the province. But his troops intended to maintain their positions in the Mavinga region, he said, denying UNITA claims that they were running out of provisions.

Namibia**Gurirab Comments on Relations with RSA**

MB2303190890 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Mar 90

[From the "Africa South" program]

[Text] Namibia's independence celebrations have been accompanied by a flurry of diplomatic activity between Namibia's new government and the foreign guests that attended the festivities in Windhoek.

Namibia's new foreign minister, Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, spoke to journalists at Windhoek airport about the contacts he had with foreign diplomats during the week. Martin Swain reports.

[Begin recording] [Swain] Mr. Ben Gurirab said that he had had numerous contacts with the guests and has signed a number of agreements, principally on the establishment of diplomatic ties. He cited, as example, the

Federal Republic of Germany, Algeria, the USSR, Finland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China.

Asked about the invitation extended to President de Klerk and the South African foreign minister, Mr. Pik Botha, Mr. Ben Gurirab had the following to say.

[Gurirab] We invited him here to the celebrations because we wanted to send a message to people of South Africa. We wanted to assure President de Klerk himself that Namibia's independence is something that they should welcome, and that what we have accomplished here may serve as an impetus to assist the people of South Africa, as they are now sorting out various issues to embark upon the process of negotiations.

Ours has been an arduous, a long, process of negotiations, but we had to make a start somewhere. We see the commitments on the part of the South African Government, in the person of President de Klerk. We also see a commitment that we have always known about on the part of the leadership of the ANC [African National Congress], President Oliver Tambo and his deputy Mr. Nelson Mandela. And we, therefore, feel that by bringing President de Klerk here, our comrades of the ANC here, they would each look around and together appreciate what we have accomplished here. And if in a (?fair) way, we can make a contribution, we should be ready as Namibians to do so.

He had the opportunity to meet many world leaders. The foreign minister of the Soviet Union—I mentioned that because it is the first time that a South African Government official has met, at the high level, Soviet officials. But, he also had opportunity to meet quite a number of important African leaders.

All of us would like to see an immediate end to apartheid [words indistinct] opportunity for President de Klerk to explain his policy and intentions. But also (?note) that the African leaders wanted to impress upon him that they welcome the positive (?aspect) of his pronouncements, but at the same time we wanted to ensure by impressing upon him that time is running out and we cannot lose this opportunity. The marking of the positive developments in southern Africa are there.

It is a challenge for leaders in our region, particularly President de Klerk, to seize this opportunity and to move forward to end apartheid, sit down with the leaders of the majority in South Africa, and to negotiate a new dispensation, which should mean a nonracial, democratic, united South Africa. That is what we would like to wish for our neighbors down south.

[Swain] On the subject of Namibia's relations with South Africa, Mr. Ben Gurirab expressed the hope that South Africa would recognize Namibia's sovereignty and that the outstanding issues of contention between the two countries, and in particular that of Walvis Bay, could be quickly resolved.

It was still too early, he said, for full diplomatic relations to be established between the two countries. Mr. Ben Gurirab concluded by saying that Namibia hopes to entertain good relations with all its southern African neighbors, such as Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Namibia would become a member of the United Nations, the OAU, the Non-aligned Movement and the African Caribbean and Pacific countries, which are related to the EEC.

The future looks bright, he said, provided everyone worked hard. The presence of so many world leaders at the independence celebrations had manifested the goodwill of the international community towards the newly independent Namibia. [end recording]

Ghanaian Official Meets Mandela in Windhoek

AB2303165690 Accra Domestic Service
in English 0700 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council, [PNDC] Captain Kojo Tsikata, has held talks in Windhoek with the deputy president of the African National Congress [ANC], Mr. Nelson Mandela. Capt. Tsikata, who is leading Ghana's delegation to Namibia's independence celebration, delivered a special message and an invitation from the PNDC chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, to Mr. Mandela to visit Ghana.

An ANC source told the GHANA NEWS AGENCY that Mr. Mandela recalled his last visit to Ghana in May 1962, where he met other freedom fighters like Mr. Robert Mugabe, now president of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Mandela also referred to Ghana's pioneering role in the liberation struggle, adding that the country's first president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, enunciated the principle that no African country can consider itself free until all of Africa is free.

Mr. Mandela said Chairman Rawlings has restored Ghana's dynamic role in the African liberation struggle. Jerry Rawlings is a leader who understands the responsibilities of an African leader, Mr. Mandela added. He hoped the ANC and the South African people would continue to receive support and inspiration from Ghana in the final phase of the struggle against apartheid.

AWB Supports Rehoboth Independence

MB2303171790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1700 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Pretoria March 23 SAPA—The drive for an independent and sovereign Rehoboth state in central Namibia will be fully backed by the Boer separatists, a coalition of white South African separatist movements, the leader of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [AWB] Eugene Terreblanche, said on Friday [23 March].

This was said at a press conference—attended by the Rehoboth Baster leader, Captain Hans Diergaardt, and

representatives of various rightwing organisations—announcing white separatist support for the Rehoboth secessionists.

"We pledge our total moral support for the brave step taken by Mr Diergaardt," the AWB leader said, speaking in front of a banner bearing the red, white and black colours of his organisation and those of the Transvaal vierkleur.

Mr Diergaardt said the Rehoboth independence quest hinged on the territory's history as the first fully independent "volk" in South Africa, self-government under South African auspices and resistance against communal lands having to be handed to the central Namibian Government.

The elections in terms of UN Resolution 435 had placed an ethnic majority in power, which the Rehoboth Basters found unacceptable.

On the land question, Mr Diergaardt asked why only Rehoboth communal lands, bought nearly 100 years ago, had been singled out for expropriation by the government.

When approached on the question of the future facing Rehoboth's 1.4 million hectares of land, SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] President Sam Nujoma had told him Rehoboth was part of Namibia and would be treated as such, Mr Diergaardt said.

Issues of central importance to the Rehoboth Basters included land, the right to govern it, and retaining the right to freely practise their culture, reporters were told.

Replying to a question, he said there was no doubt the Rehoboth Basters had rightful claim to their land, and would even approach the World Court to achieve this.

A referendum among Rehoboth's 31,000 to 50,000 residents would show up to 90 per cent support for sovereignty, he added.

Mr Terreblanche said the cooperation between white separatists and Mr Diergaardt dashed suggestions that calls for a "volks" sovereignty were related to apartheid or race.

The AWB this week billed the press conference between the rightists and the Rehoboth Basters as "the first in South African politics where Boer leaders and those of another volk outside the borders of the RSA have met".

Zimbabwe

Shevardnadze Continues Harare Visit

Remarks Noted

MB2503110590 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES
in English 25 Mar 90 p 2

[By Don Jacobs, Harare]

[Text] President F.W. de Klerk understands that apartheid is an anachronism, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said here yesterday, pledging support for dialogue to shape a new South Africa.

Asked for his personal impressions of President de Klerk after their Windhoek meeting, he replied: "I would really like to believe all he said to me about the goal of dismantling apartheid.

"My impression is that Mr de Klerk understands that apartheid is an anachronism in our time."

Mr Shevardnadze's prediction? "The elimination of apartheid will become the major event of the closing years of this century and one could make the implementations of this objective the goal of one's life.

"We understand that Mr de Klerk and those who stand behind him will face major problems. "But the only way to go is to eliminate apartheid."

Mr Shevardnadze refused point-blank to answer questions about President Mikhail Gorbachev's reported refusal to sign a R1.8-billion deal with President Robert Mugabe for sophisticated MiG-29 or MiG-31 jet interceptor fighters, or to continue supplying the ANC [African National Congress] with arms for guerrilla warfare.

But, Mr Shevardnadze said, "no serious differences" had emerged in his protracted talks with Mr Mugabe and Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Dr Nathan Shamuyarira.

—Mr Shevardnadze said he and American Secretary of State James Baker had agreed in Windhoek to "coordinate our efforts" to promote peace talks in Angola and Mozambique.

Conditions for ending the two protracted civil wars by negotiation were now most favorable, he believed.

In a speech in Harare on Friday, he made a clear reference to withdrawal of traditional Soviet support for armed revolution in southern Africa.

Mr Shevardnadze told Dr Shamuyarira that Moscow was "not emphasising confrontation, because the price of this is too high".

Shamuyarira, Shevardnadze Comment

MB2403121390 Johannesburg SABA in English
1204 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Harare March 24 SABA—There should be closer economic cooperation between Zimbabwe and the Soviet Union, and steps have already been taken to achieve this, Zimbabwe's Foreign Affairs Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said on Saturday, the Zimbabwean national news agency ZIANA reports.

At a press briefing after seeing off Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at Harare International Airport on Saturday morning, Shamuyarira said although

relations between Zimbabwe and the USSR were "excellent", there had to be an improvement in trade.

"We expect the USSR to be involved in our economy in mining, agriculture, manufacturing and the provision of hydro-electric power because they have expertise in these fields," Shamuyarira said.

He said a Zimbabwe-USSR joint economic commission had been formed, and had met in Harare last year and would meet again in Moscow next year.

Trade representatives were now in both countries, and the Soviet trade representative was at present promoting joint ventures in several fields, he said.

Next year, he said, the Soviet Union was going to exhibit "on a large scale" at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair so that it could display what it could supply to Zimbabwe's economy, while this year in July, Zimbabwe would exhibit stone sculpture and cultural artefacts in Moscow.

"Next year we will have a trade exhibition to show what our economy can supply to the Soviet Union, and this should be able to promote trade between our two countries," Shamuyarira said.

To further strengthen exchanges between the two countries, the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, would begin regular flights between Harare and Moscow next week.

Shamuyarira described Shevardnadze's two day official visit to Zimbabwe as highly successful, and that it was important to this country "because it allows us to interact with a big power".

He said the Soviet minister had met President Mugabe for one and a half hours on Friday morning, and later he had met Shamuyarira for two hours where he was briefed on what the big powers could do to bring peace to Mozambique, Angola, South Africa and the southern African region as a whole.

Shevardnadze had in turn briefed both men on the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and given his assessment of events.

At a joint press conference earlier, Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union and the United States had agreed to work together to stimulate peace initiatives in southern Africa, particularly in Angola and Mozambique.

Shevardnadze held a meeting with American Secretary of State James Baker when both men attended celebrations marking Namibia's independence.

"Secretary Baker and myself have agreed that we will exert all our efforts in order to encourage the policy of reconciliation in these countries," he said.

He said the Soviet Union was optimistic about the prospects of peace in Angola and Mozambique, because "there is a certain degree of readiness by both the leaders of these countries and their opponents to engage in dialogue."

He expressed satisfaction with the talks he had held with Mugabe and Shamuyarira, and called for the strengthening of economic ties.

Shevardnadze said in his talks with South African President F.W. de Klerk, whom he said had taken steps in the right direction, the major issue had been the dismantling of apartheid, and he had stressed to him that it should be done as quickly as possible.

He also said he had invited Shamuyarira to Moscow as a follow-up to the talks they held on Friday [23 Mar].

Shevardnadze left Zimbabwe for Tanzania on Saturday morning on the fifth leg of an African tour, the first by a Soviet foreign minister.

Meets Press, Departs for Tanzania

*MB2403114890 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1100 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, says the Soviet Union and the United States have agreed to do all they can to stimulate peace initiatives in southern Africa.

Speaking to reporters at Harare Airport before leaving Zimbabwe for Tanzania on the fifth stage of a seven nation tour, he said that he and his American counterpart, Mr. James Baker had agreed to work together to end the civil wars in Angola and Mozambique. Mr. Shevardnadze held talks with Mr. Baker during the Namibian independence celebration, in Windhoek earlier this week.

Mr. Shevardnadze said there was a certain degree of readiness by both leaders of Angola and Mozambique and their opponents to engage in dialogue.

He said that the independence of Namibia and political reforms in South Africa were among the favorable factors pointing toward and easing of regional tensions.

Referring to his meeting with the state president, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, in Namibia, he said that his impression was that President de Klerk understood that apartheid was an anachronism.

He said the elimination of apartheid was the imperative of our time and that it would become the major event of the closing years of the 20th century.

Ivory Coast

Political Bureau Issues Communique After Meeting

*AB2303214490 Abidjan Domestic Service
in French 1930 GMT 23 Mar 90*

[Communique issued by the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast- African Democratic Rally (PDCI-RDA) Political Bureau in Abidjan on 23 March 1990, following its meeting called by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny]

[Text] Upon the request of His Excellency Mr. Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the Republic and chairman of the party, the PDCI-RDA Political Bureau met today, 23 March 1990, from 1000 GMT to 1230 GMT at the presidential palace. This meeting, which was also attended by members of government, enabled the Political Bureau to acquaint itself with the progress made by the commission charged with carrying out a survey of the ways and means of reducing the cost of living. It will be recalled that the commission is made up of representatives of the General Union of Ivory Coast Workers, the Ivory Coast Employers Union, the Ivorian Women's Associations, the mayors of the ten communities in the City of Abidjan, the Consumers Association, the National Union of Parents and Wards of Ivory Coast, the ministers of economy and finance; commerce; public works, transport, construction, and town planning; labor; mines; agriculture and water forestry resources; and posts and telecommunications.

The Political Bureau expressed satisfaction at the quality of the work done by the commission, particularly, the excellent, calm, and fruitful atmosphere of dialog within which the deliberations took place. The outcome of this survey will be made public in the coming days by the government.

Already, the Political Bureau has expressed satisfaction with the conclusions of the commission, which will affect—this must be emphasized—the cost of living of all Ivorians and calls on the government to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the measures that will result from the deliberations are effectively applied as soon as they are announced.

Concerning the economic and financial recovery measures, the Political Bureau specifies that they will also be made public on Saturday, 31 March 1990.

Abidjan Medical Workers Go on Strike

Strikers Banned From Hospitals

*AB2603075590 Abidjan Domestic Service
in French 0700 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Communique issued by the government concerning the strike by doctors, pharmacists, and dentists.]

[Text] In line with the decision by the National Trade Union of Senior Officers of Health of Ivory Coast [SYNACASSCI] to observe a 48-hour strike beginning today, the union

stated that the Cocody University Teaching Hospital would be closed and that emergency services will be rendered at the Treichville University Teaching Hospital, and that striking members would assemble at the Treichville University Teaching Hospital.

In this regard, the government informs the population that the two teaching hospitals and all health centers of Abidjan and in other parts of the country will remain open to doctors, pharmacists, and dentists who want to remain loyal to their oath by treating the sick, either in admission or rushed by emergency to health centers. The government orders striking doctors, pharmacists, and dentists to respect the place of work and freedom of work of their nonstriking colleagues. The government points out to these strikers that they will not be authorized to go to the hospitals. Any demonstrations around these institutions is prohibited.

In general, all demonstrations and gatherings are prohibited throughout the country. Security services will be present at the health centers, to ensure total security for visitors, as well as nonstriking doctors, pharmacists, dentists, and paramedical workers going about their normal duties in these institutions.

Heads of security services are asked to ensure that these instructions are scrupulously respected.

Doctors 'Not Receiving Patients'

*AB2603111890 Paris AFP in French 0949 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] Abidjan, 26 Mar (AFP)—A large number of policemen and soldiers have been deployed in front of Abidjan's main hospital, which is open to the public but paralyzed by a doctors' strike, an AFP reporter observed in Abidjan. Three military trucks and two police vehicles belonging to the Republican Security Services (CRS) are stationed in front of the University Teaching Hospital [CHU] in Treichville, one of the 10 municipalities in Abidjan. The policemen and the soldiers are sitting in their vehicles.

The CHU doctors are at the hospital, but are not receiving patients, it was explained to AFP. According to informed sources, Ivorian Health Minister Paul Ekra was reportedly at the hospital and negotiating with the doctors. This information has not yet been confirmed. The doctors, who are salaried workers and members of the National Trade Union of Senior Officers of Health of Ivory Coast (SYNACASSCI), have decided to stage a 48-hour strike, beginning today, in protest against the austerity measures decided upon by the government and which involve a massive reduction in the salaries of civil servants.

The Ivorian Government today banned all demonstrations and gatherings in front of the health centers. The ban has been extended to all gatherings and demonstrations throughout the national territory. The security forces have been asked to ensure the ban's implementation.

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28 March 1990

